

The Old Line State A History of Maryland 1956

Library of American Lives

A Source Edition Recording the Early and Contemporary History of Maryland
Through the Medium of Extensive Research and the Life Histories of its
most constructive Members—Chronicling the Backgrounds and
Activities of its Prominent Families and Personages
with Emphasis on Their Accomplishments
in making Maryland one of
America's Greatest
States.

By

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THREE ROYAL OCTAVO VOLUMES: PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED

HISTORICAL RECORD ASSOCIATION

HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

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perintendent of the Sunday School for several years, is a member of the boards of trustees and stewards and has been a lay delegate to the annual Methodist Conference since 1936. He was a member of the National Prohibition Party until its dissolution and is now a registered Republican. He was president of the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company from its organization in 1926 until 1938. He has served as director of the Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce and is a former president of the Kiwanis Club of Mount Airy. From 1932, when it was organized, until 1954, he was president of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple Association. He is past master of Prudence Lodge, No. 190, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and served as district Grand inspector of the Grand Lodge of Maryland from 1933 to 1943. He was grand chief templar, International Order of Good Templars, in the year 1924-25 and is also past patron of Prudence Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. From 1921 to 1925 he was Scoutmaster of a Boy Scout troop in Mount Airy. In numerous ways, Mr. Watkins, by his personality and activities, has been a stimulus to growth and welfare in a large segment of Maryland.

C. PHILIP NICHOLS

Much of the recent development in and around Laurel is attributed to a young native whose energy, vision and ability have made him an outstanding citizen in a comparatively short time—C. Philip Nichols. Mr. Nichols heads a group of companies which have turned unused land into some of the most attractive residential districts in the United States. In the period he has been accomplishing all this, he has become a political leader, served on the Laurel City Council and been endorsed by Democrats throughout the county as a candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates.

He was born at Laurel on October 5, 1922. His father was the late Roland L. Nichols, Sr., also a native of Laurel, a successful and prominent building contractor who was very active in the affairs of Prince George's County. The mother is the former Mae T. Powers, daughter of Philip P. and Anna A. Powers, also born in that section of the State. C. Philip Nichols was educated at St. Mildred's School, Laurel, and in Prince George's County public schools. He organized the Laurel Realty Company in Laurel and is now president of the Laurel Development Company, Inc., Laurel Gardens, Inc., Park Terrace, Inc., R. L. Nichols Construction Company and Southern Properties, Inc. His office is at 150 Washington Boulevard, Laurel.

On January 26, 1946, at Laurel, Mr. Nichols married Hilda L. Ellis, of Abbeville, South Carolina, daughter of John and Rosalie Ellis. Mrs. Nichols is a laboratory technician. She and Mr. Nichols are the parents of three children: Charles Philip, Jr., born in 1948; Gregory Powers, born in 1950, and Cynthia Jean, born in 1952. Their home is at 710 Montgomery Street, Laurel, and they worship in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church of that city.

Mr. Nichols, who has added much needed residential housing in the com-



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munity, is a member of the Prince George's County Real Estate Board, Maryland Real Estate Board, Baltimore City Real Estate Board and the National Association of Realtors. He was elected to the City Council of Laurel for the 1952-54 term and it was in 1954 that the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee and the Democratic Clubs of Prince George's County endorsed him for the Maryland House of Delegates in the primary election. He is a former director of Prince George's Hospital at Cheverly and a former director and secretary of the Laurel Chamber of Commerce. In 1954, he was president of the Kiwanis Club of Laurel. Boating is his favorite sport. He is not only a successful business man in the field of real estate and construction, but a leading and popular figure in other fields.

JOHN JACOB HAFER

The reputation of John Jacob Hafer overlaps various vocational and professional fields and is Statewide, even tri-Statewide, in scope. A native of Allegany County who has confined his activities to that area, he has nevertheless found himself operating far beyond its boundaries. He is known for his Hafer Funeral Home at 230 Baltimore Avenue, Cumberland, his 607-acre Happy Hills Farms, at Frostburg, and his restaurants in Cumberland and on Route 40. In addition, he has a reputation for leadership in civic and professional organizations and in the fraternal world, particularly the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Cumberland was the scene of his birth on November 14, 1905. His father, Jacob Hafer, born in NeuMorchten, near Kassel, Germany, in 1866, is a prominent citizen of Frostburg and Allegany County and is still active in business despite the proximity of his ninetieth birthday. Educated in Germany, he came to the United States, after his father's death, with his mother, two brothers and three sisters. The family first lived in Cumberland, but settled in Frostburg in 1906, where Jacob Hafer opened a business as funeral director and furniture dealer which more or less assured the future course of the career of his son John, then only a few months old. Jacob Hafer married, in Cumberland, Annie Trescher, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Schroeder) Trescher of Cresaptown.

John Jacob Hafer received his education at various institutions. These included Frostburg State Teachers' Training School, Beall High School, Mercersburg Academy; the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania, where he took the degree of Bachelor of Science in Economics in 1927; the Cincinnati College of Embalming and Penn State College, where he took several short courses in agriculture. At the University of Pennsylvania he joined Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity.

In 1928, having completed his education and specialized training and received some "outside experience," Mr. Hafer returned to Frostburg to join his father in business, becoming general manager of all Hafer operations. In